

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 JUSE-00

SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01 AGR-05 AID-05 /113 W
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P R 251734Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 963

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, TU

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY OFFICIAL OF UN DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS
(DND) ON TURKISH OPIUM CULTIVATION

REFS: (A) ANKARA 1542, (B) STATE 39804, (C) ANKARA 1454

1. DND OFFICIAL SOTIROFF ADVISES THAT PRIOR TO CONVENING
OF CURRENT SESSION COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, HE IN-
FORMALLY BRIEFED PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ON TOPICS ARISING
IN CND. HE SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY STATEMENT ISSUED WAS
GENERAL COMMENTARY ON CND WHICH CONTAINED FOLLOWING PARA
RELATING TO TURKEY.

"OF SPECIAL INTEREST DURING THE FORTHCOMING SESSION WILL
BE THE ITEM ON POPPY CULTIVATION. EVENTS OF CONSIDERABLE
INTEREST HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS CONNEXION SINCE THE THIRD
SPECIAL SESSION IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1974 - NOTABLY THE
DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY FIRST TO RESUME
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POPPY CULTIVATION, THEN TO PROHIBIT OPIUM PRODUCTION AND

PERMIT ONLY THE PRODUCTION OF POPPY STRAW, THAT IS TO SAY, UNLANCED POPPY CAPSULES".

2. SOTIROFF ADDS THAT DURING HIS ORAL EXCHANGE WITH PRESS REPRESENTATIVES HE MADE COMMENTS IN AMPLIFICATION TO EFFECT THAT NEW POPPY STRAW METHOD ADOPTED BY GOT SHOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO PROBLEM OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM BECAUSE THIS METHOD SHOULD NOT RESULT IN OPIUM PRODUCTION. HE POINTED OUT ADDITIONALLY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE NO ILLICIT LANCING OF POPPY CAPSULES WHICH GOT HAD ASSURED UN WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED, BECAUSE UN HAD TO ASSUME GOVERNMENTS WOULD CARRY OUT SUCH ASSURANCES IN GOOD FAITH. DALE

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